

capacity for studying and practicing equity-based pedagogical approaches. Her research focuses on explicating affirmative teaching practices, educational policies, and community organizing methods that improve community partnerships and bolster student success. Dr. Wilkerson has been recognized with the Outstanding Service in Education award by the Holmes Scholars Association of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and the Diversity Scholarship with the Adult Higher Education Association (AHEA). She serves as the national chair for the Urban Education Topical Action Group for AACTE.

Dr. Amanda Wilkerson is an innovator and an intellectual who continues to work on community initiatives. To date, she is the first faculty member in her department to secure a prestigious National Science Foundation award. Further, she is an expert with Florida ExpertNet, a publicly funded portal of research expertise in Florida's universities.

RECOGNIZING THE PASSING OF
CINDY GAULKE

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember my friend and former colleague, Cindy Gaulke. During my time as a Portland city commissioner, Cindy was our office's scheduler and a dedicated public servant in the truest sense of the term.

Cindy was an integral team player, focused, and determined. She was the heart and soul of our City Hall office. She was dedicated to doing her job well, sorting things out, and was there when you needed her. And she had a great sense of humor.

When I won a special election to serve in Congress, I turned to Cindy to ask if she would come out to Washington, D.C. to help set up our Congressional office. I was thankful to have a friend and terrific partner as the team figured out how Capitol Hill worked. I will forever be grateful Cindy was willing to share some of her competence with me and my team.

Cindy was a bright spot of confidence, good cheer and dedication that made our lives function in our Nation's Capital. I am honored to have known her and to have worked with her.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LINSEY EBERT

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a beloved teacher, athlete, coach, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who inspired so many during her 45 years on earth, and continues to inspire and teach us even in death. Linsey Anne Ebert was born on September 12, 1977 in Howell, Michigan. She grew up in Fowlerville with her parents, Cecelia and Randy, and her older sister, Tonya. Active in many sports from a young

age, Linsey found her true passion on the volleyball court, playing on the varsity team as a high school freshman, earning all-state honors and eventually signing to play for the University of Michigan on a full scholarship.

There, she graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1999 while racking up victories for the Wolverine volleyball team and helping lead them to the NCAA tournament. To this day, she holds numerous university records, and even played internationally for a brief time after graduation.

As significant as her collegiate and athletic accomplishments were, they were just the beginning for Linsey, who went on to earn not one but two Master's degrees from the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, along with her teaching certifications. Her abiding faith was evident in all she did, including her early years teaching at-risk youth in Chicago Public Schools. The tug of family brought her back to Michigan, and in 2012 she was hired to teach middle school science and social studies in Dansville Public Schools, and as a volleyball coach at Fowlerville High School.

There are those who were born to teach, and Linsey was a prime example. She poured her heart into her lesson plans and her students and was passionate about implementing the most effective, research-based strategies. She mentored thousands of students and always sought to ensure they knew they were seen, valued, and loved, while pushing them to become academically proficient. Linsey was the first to step up to lead an extracurricular activity or club, to chaperone a trip, or to fill a void, including learning a whole new curriculum when the district needed a high school biology teacher. She was passionate about understanding systemic racism, educational inequities, and reaching marginalized students. It's no surprise that in 2018, Linsey was chosen as the Dansville Teacher of the Year for her outstanding teaching and service to the school and community.

I had the chance to meet Linsey a few years ago and hear firsthand her passionate belief in the power of education to change lives. She was active and engaged on every issue, and radiated love for her students and her craft.

Every one of us can look back and identify a teacher who made a difference. For thousands of students, Linsey Ebert was exactly that. She was brilliant, accomplished, and humble, and her sudden death rips a hole in the fabric of this small community. But even in death, Linsey, a registered organ donor, continues to teach us what it means to be fully devoted to the service of others. Mr. Speaker, I send my condolences to her family, her friends, her former colleagues, and the entire Dansville community. Just as her lessons will live on in the people she loved, it is only fitting that her name and her story be forever remembered.

RECOGNIZING BRENDA LAWRENCE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence for her more than 30 years of service to the people of Michigan.

A true servant of the people, Congresswoman Lawrence has inspired countless women to pursue better for their communities in public service. As an Eastsider of Detroit, her experience helped to shape her impact. Her career in politics began when as an active member in the PTA at her children's school, she ran for and won a seat on the Southfield Public Schools Board. She went on to serve on Southfield's City Council and broke barriers by being elected as the city of Southfield's first Black Mayor. She served four terms as mayor before she was elected to serve as a member of U.S. Congress in 2014.

Over the course of her career, Brenda Lawrence never wavered in her service to the people she represented. She has been an advocate, leader, and partner in the U.S. House of Representatives. The 12th Congressional District will forever remember her impact on our communities. We thank her for uplifting the voices of everyday people.

In honor of her remarkable career, please join me in celebrating Congresswoman Brenda Lawrence and her legacy of public service.

HONORING ERIC PINELLAS AS A
DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN CENTRAL
FLORIDA FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Eric Pinellas was born and raised in Osceola County and graduated from Osceola High School in 1990. He went on to earn a degree from Georgia Military College and returned to Osceola County where he served as a behavior specialist with the Center for Drug-Free Living from 1995 to 1999. Mr. Pinellas knew his purpose was to impact our youth. He started his career with the Osceola County School District in 2000 as an educator and impactful coach.

Mr. Pinellas has dedicated his life to serving the youth while employed at Osceola High School—23 years coaching football, weightlifting, and track and field. He has coached nine state champions in track and field, two in girls weightlifting, and has been a member of four state runner-up coaching staffs in football. Mr. Pinellas has also helped over 50 of his athletes earn athletic scholarships to various colleges and universities across the country. He realized our youth could use their athletic abilities to take them to places they have never been. He understood those talents can be used as leverage to succeed. Most recently, he was named head football coach at Osceola after 21 years as a dedicated assistant coach where he also holds the title of head boys and girls track coach.

Mr. Pinellas' community involvement has also included volunteering with both youth football and youth track teams in the Osceola County community. These youth teams have been able to display their many talents at many national events across the United States. He is recognized as a strong pillar in the community. Mr. Pinellas has always felt it was his obligation to give back to his community in the same manner that he saw others do as he grew up in the city of Kissimmee. He lives by the motto "one child at a time."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
MICHAEL HARRIS

HON. MARK DeSAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of former Mayor of Pleasant Hill Michael Harris as he retires after more than 30 years of service to Contra Costa County.

Throughout his career, Michael has shown his steadfast commitment to bettering the lives of Contra Costans and improving our community. He began his career in public service with the Moraga Planning Commission, later going on to serve 4 years on the Moraga Town Council. When Michael moved to Pleasant Hill with his family, he used his skills to serve his new hometown. He was appointed to the Pleasant Hill Planning Commission in 1999 and was a key player in the creation of downtown Pleasant Hill. Thanks to Michael's leadership, the city has grown significantly, allowing businesses to thrive, and fostering a greater sense of community in Pleasant Hill. Michael also spearheaded the city's Community Service Day, allowing residents to unite in an effort to better the community.

Further, Michael has worked tirelessly to support our community's youth, establishing the Pleasant Hill Education Initiative to expand educational opportunities in the city and regularly volunteering at local schools. He also served on the Contra Costa County Managed Care Commission, managing the county's healthcare system and advocating for a reliable and effective healthcare system for all Contra Costans. Michael's work has had a profound impact on both Pleasant Hill and the county at large.

Outside of his work in government, Michael is also an esteemed optometrist and devoted educator. He serves as Clinical Professor Emeritus and Senior Lecturer Emeritus at the UC Berkeley School of Optometry. Michael has been a part of UC Berkeley's faculty for over 50 years, training thousands of optometrists and preparing them to enter the field. He has also authored over 200 scientific papers and published 4 books on this subject. Through his professional experience, Michael is able to offer a unique perspective and provide a clear vision of leadership for our community.

Please join me in congratulating Michael Harris on his well-deserved retirement after more than 3 decades of outstanding public service to Contra Costa.

RECOGNIZING TEMPLE BETH EL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Temple Beth El, a religious organization in Bakersfield, as they celebrate their 75th anniversary.

Founded in 1947, Temple Beth El was created to help Central Valley residents embrace

a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment—through faith, culture, and community. That same year, they inaugurated their first Rabbi and installed a religious school for children. Since its founding, Temple Beth El has been an inclusive and welcoming space for people of all backgrounds to explore and maintain their spiritual and emotional connection to Judaism.

Temple Beth El is a place where all are welcomed—whether they were born Jewish or found Judaism later in life. The teachings provided can open the door to a lifetime of Jewish fulfillment and commitment. The members of Temple Beth El have dedicated their lives to promoting Jewish ideas and beliefs through education and community. In December 2007, Temple Beth El opened its Torah Learning Center, which offered 8 new classrooms to teach students about Judaism and Jewish heritage. In addition to its wide range of classes, the Temple Beth El Beginning Learning Center serves as a preschool and daycare for its members and their children.

For decades, Temple Beth El has played a vital role in the Jewish community throughout the Central Valley, particularly in Bakersfield. Through their religious services and education centers, they have created a safe environment for the Bakersfield Jewish community to come together.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring Temple Beth El as it celebrates its 75-year anniversary.

COMMENDING JANNA LOPEZ FOR
HER OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY DURING THE
HERMIT'S PEAK/CALF CANYON
WILDFIRE

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Janna Lopez from Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire started on April 6, 2022, when a U.S. Forest Service prescribed burn got out of control. It burned 341,735 acres between April and late August in the southern Sangre de Cristo Mountains in San Miguel, Mora, and Taos counties. It was the largest wildfire in New Mexico history.

Janna immediately stepped up to help the residents of Mora and San Miguel Counties. In collaboration with the community, she rapidly set up a shelter where her team, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, provided food and shelter to hundreds of displaced residents for over 10 months.

Janna's commitment to serving others is inspiring. Her work to bring people and organizations together is the embodiment of community. Neighbors Helping Neighbors serves San Miguel, Mora, and Colfax counties and beyond. The team has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars directly and in kind to their neighbors. During the initial phases of the wildfire response, Janna also coordinated donations from local businesses, national relief organizations, and established a co-located

Disaster Relief Center with FEMA. Her passion for serving others has also led to her service as a Committee Chair for the Mora San Miguel Hermit's Peak Calf Canyon Long Term Recovery Group.

Janna is an exemplary model of how we can help one another as fellow citizens of this great Nation. We honor her and the countless New Mexicans, businesses, non-profits, and organizations who also donated their time, effort, and money to help New Mexico recover during this extremely difficult time. When President Biden visited New Mexico on June 11, 2022, he said, "We have a responsibility to help this state recover, to help the families who have been here for centuries in beautiful northern New Mexico villages who can't go home and whose livelihoods have been fundamentally changed."

Empowered by the work and stories of Janna and so many Nuevo Mexicanos, I introduced the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act. Congress passed and President Biden signed into law this legislation and \$3.95 billion in relief to rightfully compensate the fire's survivors and help them recover. Uniting to work toward a common goal is what America represents. Help is finally here. The hardworking people in New Mexico and across the country have shown us what true community looks like. Janna is one of those community heroes. I thank her for her selflessness and dedication to service.

HONORING DR. SANDRA NIXON
TYNES AS A DISTINGUISHED
LEADER IN CENTRAL FLORIDA
FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, February 17, 2023

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes, an educator and ordained Christian Evangelist, co-founded the Welcome Table Ministries along with her husband Deacon Carlton A. Tynes, a Korean War veteran and 30-year civil servant. They had a joint vision to establish a ministry dedicated to serving others. Although Deacon Tynes transitioned in December of 2019, Welcome Table Ministries continues its good work under co-founder Dr. Sandra Nixon Tynes with an ardent, unwavering mandate to serve the hopeless, the hungry, the homeless, and the helpless.

Since its inception, Welcome Table Ministries has served over 29,000 hot nutritious home-cooked meals and provided confidential counseling, free resumes, free tutoring in English language arts, special holiday treats/gifts, emergency groceries, and monetary crisis assistance. Dr. Tynes also provides assistance with religious services. Welcome Table Ministries has touched the lives of many in countless strives to fulfill its mission to "share the sweet love of Jesus Christ one hot meal and one act of kindness at a time." They have been doing so for over 23 years.

Dr. Tynes has been recognized by the City of Kissimmee with a proclamation for the ministry, service, and partnership with other community organizations in Osceola County.